3/23/72

Dear Howard,

You may recall that at the time of China I said that Nixon was here, not there; that his problems were domestic, not foreigh or diplomatic; and that the clues were visible before any of what came out.

We not have a development on that. I suspect that ith the generous aid of the adminis tration, the pres will herald the newest development, which exactly coincides with the latest and quietly spectacular confession of official failure to restrain inflation, as a declaration of war against Nixon by Meany, or by labor against the administration. That is the reverse. Nixon has been consistent in some ways, one is his undeserating anti-labor record. Whence cometh his $$$? He has, rather shrewdly, picked at time and a place where he can fight best, when the statistics scare people, there the 14 percent raise to the longshoremen will seem generous compared to what others are getting (and there is the residual big-business hatred of Bridges), and when their traditional allies will be the traditionalyellow-bellies.

Nixon never does anything right. His skill lies in making it seem that he also is pure and innocent, that the other guy is always the bad guy.

Increased costs are real. That they are the fault of labor is not. That those who fund the Nixons are getting more is fact, and that they will finance him further is a not unreasonable hope on his part.

Meanwhile, with a deplorably bad record to stand on -can he, on anything, really?- he has created an artificial enemy, orgabized labor, for all the world as thought it were something separate from Everyman, and under circumstances that may well divide the ranks.

We may be in for a very rough period. Nixon needs help badly. He is evil and un- restrained enough to case a real disaster in which he will appear the victim.

Realize this is hasty, something th t has been on my mind for a day but not thought through, merely an effort to direct your own independent thinking.

Best,